

S. 2395

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2395, a bill to require an annual feasibility report on cooperation between the National Guard and Taiwan, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 139

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSOFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 139, a resolution recognizing the importance of the blueberry industry to the United States and designating July 2021 as "National Blueberry Month".

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. 2412. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to protect coverage for screening mammography, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the bipartisan "Protecting Access to Lifesaving Screenings Act," which would protect access to annual mammograms by ensuring breast cancer screenings are covered through insurance for women starting at age 40.

With the exception of skin cancers, breast cancer continues to be the most common cancer in American women and second leading cause of cancer death in women behind lung cancer. According to the American Cancer Society, in 2021, about 281,550 new cases of invasive breast cancer will be diagnosed in women and about 43,600 women will die from breast cancer.

Fortunately, we're seeing the death rate for breast cancer go down with a decrease of 1 percent per year from 2013 to 2018. According to the American Cancer Society, this has been largely credited to earlier diagnosis of breast cancer through screening and patient awareness, in addition to improvements that have been achieved in breast cancer treatments.

Mammography has been the best test we have at finding breast cancer early, providing a better chance of survival after diagnosis. According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, women with insurance coverage are more likely to report having had a mammogram in the past two years compared to uninsured women. But while regular breast cancer screenings have helped tremendously in the early detection of breast cancer, health insurance coverage of these screenings for women in their forties is at risk.

While leading medical groups, including the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the American Cancer Society, and the American College of Radiology support women having no-cost access to breast cancer screenings starting at age 40, the ac-

tual decision of coverage is typically determined using recommendations by an independent volunteer panel known as the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF).

Unfortunately, when USPSTF updated its breast screening guidelines in 2015 to recommend that women should start mammography screenings at age 50, health coverage without cost sharing was put in jeopardy for women in their 40s.

The "Protecting Access to Lifesaving Screenings Act" was first introduced shortly thereafter to postpone these recommendations that would have limited coverage for breast cancer screening. Congress has subsequently acted to extend this moratorium several times since then, most recently passing an extension in December 2020 that is set to expire January 1, 2023.

The benefits of screenings are clear, and we need to ensure that women in their forties continue to have coverage for, and access to, these screenings. To that end, we are reintroducing the "Protecting Access to Lifesaving Screening Act" to further protect access to mammography screenings that are covered at no cost to patients ages 40-49. If passed, the current moratorium on USPSTF breast cancer screening guidelines would be extended through 2028.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the total number of breast cancer screening tests received by women through CDC's National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program declined by 87% during April 2020 as compared with the previous 5-year averages for that month. This decline is attributed to reduced routine medical visits due to COVID-19. Consequences of these prolonged delays in screening include delayed diagnoses, poor health consequences, and an increase in cancer disparities among women already experiencing health inequities. Further removing barriers to screening by ensuring patients are covered at no cost will be crucial as the public begins to resume routine preventive health services.

I am honored to be joined by Senators BLACKBURN and SHAHEEN in introducing this legislation. I am also very grateful for supporters of this bill, including the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, American College of Radiology, American Women Unite for Breast Cancer Screening, Black Women's Health Imperative, Breast Care of Washington, Check for a Lump, DenseBreast-Info, FORCE: Facing Our Risk of Cancer Empowered, Living Beyond Breast Cancer, Men Supporting Women With Cancer, National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health, National Black Nurses Association, National Consortium of Breast Centers, National Hispanic Medical Association, National Medical Association, Prevent Cancer Foundation, Servicewomen's Action Network, Sharsheret, Society of Breast

Imaging, Society of Breast Imaging, Susan G. Komen and the Tigerlily Foundation.

I urge my colleagues to join us in protecting access to lifesaving screenings by supporting the passage of this bill.

Thank you Mr. President, and I yield the floor.

By Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. MORAN):

S. 2425. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to ensure the provision of high-quality service through the Suicide Prevention Lifeline, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, unfortunately, rates of suicide have risen to epidemic levels in the United States, with suicide now the tenth leading cause of death in the country. On average, there are 129 suicides every day, roughly one every eleven minutes, a staggering statistic. That is why I am pleased to be introducing the Suicide Prevention Lifeline Improvement Act with Senator MORAN to help turn the tide on this increasingly dire situation.

This legislation would provide \$568 million in new funding over five years for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, delivering an infusion of new funds to help improve call capacity, make improvements to the Lifeline, and make the switch to a new, easy-to-remember, three-digit number, 9-8-8. The Lifeline has long been underfunded, but we have worked on a bipartisan basis to more than double the funding over the last three years. However, much more is needed, and this new legislation will help build on these efforts to ensure that the Lifeline is able to answer the calls of those seeking help.

In 2019, 47,500 Americans lost their lives to suicide. That same year, there were 1.4 million suicide attempts. We must renew our efforts on suicide prevention. In 2004, working with my colleague, former Senator Gordon Smith of Oregon, we authored the Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act. This law authorized new youth suicide prevention programs in honor of Senator's Smith son, who tragically died by suicide just a couple of weeks short of his 22nd birthday. For over a decade, these programs have funded college campus, state, and tribal efforts to prevent suicide among our youth and young adult populations, who are particularly at risk of suicide. During this time, youth suicide rates have decreased significantly in my home state of Rhode Island. However, nationwide, suicide rates have skyrocketed.

That is why we must renew our attention and focus on suicide prevention, including by increasing funding for, and improving access to, the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. This effort is critical to ensuring that when people in crisis call looking for help, someone will be there on the

other end of the line to offer hope and counseling. Last Congress, I was able to work with my former colleague Senator Gardner, and Senators BALDWIN and MORAN on legislation to designate the Lifeline as an easy to remember, three-digit number, 988. This common-sense law will make it easier for people across the country to access the Lifeline when they really need it. I am glad that the bill was signed into law last year, paving the way for every state to implement the switch to 9-8-8 by July 2022. This upcoming deadline, however, makes it all the more important that we provide more funding for the Lifeline.

I am pleased to once again have the opportunity to partner with Senator MORAN on suicide prevention efforts. I look forward to working together with our colleagues, as well as stakeholders supporting these efforts, to pass this critical legislation.

### SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 309—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. BRAUN (for himself, Mr. BARASSO, Mr. MARSHALL, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. RISCH, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. WICKER, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. HAGERTY, and Mr. ROUNDS) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 309

Whereas the United States was founded on principles of religious freedom by the Founders, many of whom were deeply religious;

Whereas the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States embodies principles intended to guarantee freedom of religion through the free exercise thereof and by prohibiting the Government from establishing a religion;

Whereas the Pledge of Allegiance was written by Francis Bellamy, a Baptist minister, and first published in the September 8, 1892, issue of *The Youth's Companion*;

Whereas, in 1954, Congress added the words "under God" to the Pledge of Allegiance;

Whereas, for more than 60 years, the Pledge of Allegiance has included references to the United States flag, to the United States having been established as a union "under God", and to the United States being dedicated to securing "liberty and justice for all";

Whereas, in 1954, Congress believed it was acting constitutionally when it revised the Pledge of Allegiance;

Whereas the Senate of the 117th Congress believes that the Pledge of Allegiance is a constitutional expression of patriotism;

Whereas patriotic songs, engravings on United States legal tender, and engravings on Federal buildings also contain general references to "God";

Whereas, in *Elk Grove Unified School District v. Newdow*, 542 U.S. 1 (2004), the Supreme Court of the United States overturned the decision of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit in *Newdow v. U.S. Congress*, 328 F.3d 466 (9th Cir. 2003), a case in which the Ninth Circuit concluded that recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance

by a public school teacher violated the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States;

Whereas the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit subsequently concluded that—

(1) the previous opinion of that court in *Newdow v. U.S. Congress*, 328 F.3d 466 (9th Cir. 2003) was no longer binding precedent;

(2) case law from the Supreme Court of the United States concerning the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States had subsequently changed after the decision in *Elk Grove Unified School District v. Newdow*, 542 U.S. 1 (2004); and

(3) Congress, in passing the new version of the Pledge of Allegiance, had established a secular purpose for the use of the term "under God"; and

Whereas, in light of those conclusions, the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit upheld the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance by public school teachers: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That—

(1) the Pledge of Allegiance has been a valuable part of life for the people of the United States for generations; and

(2) the Senate strongly defends the constitutionality of the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 310—EXPRESSING SOLIDARITY WITH CUBAN CITIZENS DEMONSTRATING PEACEFULLY FOR FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS, CONDEMNING THE CUBAN REGIME'S ACTS OF REPRESSION, AND CALLING FOR THE IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF ARBITRARILY DETAINED CUBAN CITIZENS

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. KAINE, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. COONS, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. BROWN, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. WARNER, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. WARNOCK, and Mr. LUJÁN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 310

Whereas on July 11, 2021, thousands of Cuban citizens took to the streets to peacefully protest and to call for respect for basic human rights and fundamental freedoms, and the end of the dictatorship in Cuba;

Whereas the demonstrations were the largest protests witnessed on the island in 25 years, with courageous Cuban men, women, and youth taking to the streets in at least 50 different cities and towns across every province to affirm a deep aspiration for democratic change and to denounce the regime's corruption;

Whereas the nationwide protests represent the full diversity of Cuban society, with demonstrators proudly proclaiming "*Patria y Vida*!" (Homeland and Life!) and calling for "*libertad*" (liberty);

Whereas the demonstrations in Cuba follow months of severe shortages of food and basic medicine, frequent power outages, record high rates of transmission of COVID-19, and the Cuban regime's ineffective response, in addition to the Cuban regime's continued repression and arbitrary imprisonment of citizens, peaceful activists, and artists;

Whereas despite the authoritarian regime's blocking of internet service to prevent the spread of information about the demonstrations, Cubans witnessed examples of their

compatriots demanding change in their country and courageously joined the growing protests;

Whereas despite the peaceful nature of the demonstrations, Miguel Díaz-Canel incited violence among Cubans and encouraged his supporters to attack peaceful protestors, declaring in a televised address, "the order to fight has been given – into the streets" and pledged his supporters' lives: "Over our dead bodies. We are prepared to do anything";

Whereas Díaz-Canel has sought to delegitimize peaceful protestors, crudely stating they constitute a small group of "vulgar criminals" that are "paid" to be disruptive;

Whereas Díaz-Canel sought to blame the endemic problems causing so much human suffering by the Cuban people on outside forces instead of on the Cuban regime's longstanding corruption, mismanagement, and theft of public resources;

Whereas the Cuban regime's domestic security apparatus, including military and police, were recorded on video violently repressing peaceful Cuban citizens, including by using live ammunition and attacking journalists;

Whereas numerous reports indicate deaths of and injuries to Cuban protestors at the hands of the regime's security forces, including instances of police firing live ammunition into crowds and at least one documented police beating that led to a civilian death;

Whereas independent Cuban civil society groups have reported that hundreds of individuals have been arrested, detained, or are missing;

Whereas defying regime repression, continued internet shutdowns, and illegal searches of the homes of activists and protestors, Cuban men, women, and youth continued to peacefully protest throughout the island on Monday, July 12, using social media to organize themselves and document acts of regime repression;

Whereas international human rights groups, including Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International, the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, have long condemned the Cuban regime for violating human rights and fundamental freedoms;

Whereas for years the Cuban regime has exported its authoritarian methods to Venezuela, sending intelligence personnel to assist Venezuelan security forces as they repressed similar peaceful protests calling for democratic change;

Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) expresses its strong solidarity with the people of Cuba in their desire to live in a free and democratic country with uncensored access to information, justice, and economic prosperity;

(2) condemns the violence ordered by Miguel Díaz-Canel against peaceful protestors as violations of internationally recognized human rights that does nothing to address Cuba's challenges;

(3) calls on Cuban forces—

(A) to respect the Cuban people's exercise of freedom of assembly, freedom of expression, and other universal human rights;

(B) to refrain from restricting internet access and connectivity in the country; and

(C) to permit Cuban citizens to freely communicate on digital platforms, as is their fundamental right;

(4) calls for the immediate and unconditional release of all arbitrarily detained Cuban citizens and all Cuban political prisoners;

(5) calls on members of the Cuban Revolutionary Armed Forces, the Cuban Ministry of